



☒ ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Hello, I'm Al Jaeger, North Dakota's Secretary of State and the state's chief election official.

Elections allow United States citizens to exercise one of our most fundamental rights - the right to vote.

Elections give us a voice in state and national politics, to take an active interest in our schools and neighborhoods, and permit us to speak out on issues and causes of importance.


In North Dakota, voting is made easy through absentee voting and early voting options. Voting is especially accessible in North Dakota since voters are not required to register before voting.

I encourage college students who are North Dakota residents to take advantage of the ease of voting during an election. And, for those college students who are not residents of North Dakota, I encourage you to participate in your home state through the absentee voting process within your home state.


As with any new activity, voting for the first time comes with questions and maybe even some anxiety. This brochure may answer some of your questions about the voting process and empower you to become an engaged citizen.

Please contact my office if you have any questions and have a great voting experience!

☒ CONTACT US



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☒ WHERE TO VOTE AS A STUDENT

As a college student you may vote in North Dakota if you:

- are a U.S. citizen;
- are at least 18 years old;
- are a resident of North Dakota;
- are a resident in your precinct for 30 days immediately preceding the election.

If you meet these qualifications you may also have a choice about where to cast your ballot in North Dakota.

1) Voting in Your Hometown

If you attend college in your hometown and still reside at home, you vote in the precinct (voting area) of your residence.

If you attend college away from your North Dakota residence and you live on or off campus, you may still vote in your hometown elections. You can do this either by absentee voting or by actually traveling back and voting in person on Election Day at your hometown precinct polling location.

2) Voting in Your College Town

If you attend college away from your North Dakota residence and you live on or off campus, you may vote in the precinct (voting area) of your college residence. Be aware however, that if you vote at your college polling location you will lose your residency back home.

3) Voting Absentee in Your Home State

If you attend college in North Dakota but are a resident of another state, contact the state election official in your home state for information about the voter qualifications and the procedures for voting absentee in your home state. Because in most cases, if you vote in an election in North Dakota your residency will change from your home state to North Dakota. Access to the Secretaries of State offices across the country can be found through the National Association of Secretaries of State web site www.nass.org/.

☒ NO REGISTRATION

North Dakota is the only state without voter registration. Therefore, North Dakota voters have no registration requirements prior to voting.

☒ VOTING IN NORTH DAKOTA

Precincts (voting areas) in North Dakota maintain a list of voters who have voted in previous elections. When a voter approaches a poll worker in a polling location they are asked to provide an acceptable form of identification. Then the election board will attempt to locate the voter's name on the voting list. If the voter's name is on the list, the voter's information is verified and the voter is then allowed to vote.

If a voter is not on the list, but a poll worker is willing to verify that the voter is a qualified elector of the precinct, the poll worker may vouch for the voter's eligibility. The voter is required to give their birth date, but then is given the right to vote.

If the voter is not on the list, and no poll worker is able to vouch for the voter's eligibility, the voter will be asked to sign an affidavit swearing to the fact that he or she is a qualified elector of the precinct and therefore qualified to vote in the precinct. If the voter agrees to sign the affidavit, the voter is allowed to vote. If the voter refuses to sign the affidavit, the voter is choosing not to vote.

☒ VOTING ABSENTEE IN NORTH DAKOTA

If you are a college student who is a North Dakota resident and living away from your permanent residence, you may wish to vote by absentee ballot so that your voice is heard in your home precinct elections. An absentee ballot conveniently allows you to vote either in person at your county auditor's office before Election Day or by mail, without physically having to go to your polling location on Election Day.

Absentee ballot applications may be completed by clicking on the [Absentee Ballot Application Wizard](#). Election officials of the county, city, or school district may also furnish absentee ballot applications to qualified electors. Application may also be made by providing the following information to the proper election official:

- the applicant's name;
- the applicant's current or most recent North Dakota residential address;
- the applicant's mailing address;
- the applicant's current contact telephone number;
- the election for which the ballot is being requested;
- the date of the request;
- an affirmation that the applicant resided or will reside in the precinct for at least thirty days prior to the election;
- the applicant's signature.
- If applicable, indicate the voter's status as a citizen living outside the United States, a uniformed service member living away from the voter's North Dakota residence, or a family member of the uniformed service member living away from the voter's North Dakota residence.
- the applicant's birth date and year
- the applicant's motor vehicle operator's license or nondriver identification number, if available

Qualified electors are not required to provide a reason for requesting an absent voter's ballot.

According to North Dakota law, absentee ballots are to be made available by the 40th day before the election. Returned absentee ballots must have an official postmark or date stamp by the day before the election.

For more information about voting absentee in North Dakota, contact your county auditor to learn the details of voting an absentee ballot or call the Secretary of State's office at 800-352-0867. See the listing of county auditor telephone numbers in this pamphlet.

If you attend college in North Dakota but are a resident of another state, contact the state election official in your home state for information about the voter qualifications and the procedures for voting absentee in your home state. Access to the Secretary of State's offices across the country can be found through the National Association of Secretary of State's web site www.nass.org/.

☒ **NORTH DAKOTA COUNTY AUDITORS**

[North Dakota Local Election Officials](#)